



APD NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APD unveils and demonstrates new Mobile Force Options Simulator Range

Today, the Austin Police Department along with City Officials and Community leaders witnessed one of APD's newest tools, the Mobile Force Options Simulator Range. The range will allow APD officers to train more frequently with their service weapons. The Mobile Force Options Simulator Range was unveiled at a news conference and demonstrations were provided.



The mobile range is a virtual target system allowing flexibility in training development. It uses ballistic protection and acoustic insulation to muffle sound and can operate at any police sub-station without disturbing surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, the program uses filmed scenarios designed to be reactive by putting officers in true-life situations to test their decision-making abilities.

The Austin Police Department would like to thank Governor Rick Perry for his continued support. With the help of his office, the City of Austin is the first city to receive a grant of this type.

"Peace officers put their lives on the line daily to keep our communities safe, and we must ensure that they receive the training necessary to do their jobs, protect themselves and protect Texans," Gov. Perry said. "This mobile shooting range will provide officers with essential training in a controlled learning environment that allows them to safely improve the skills necessary to perform their duties."

The mobile range is 53' long and consists of:

- A range masters office/control room



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- Laminar air wall
- Amor safety ceiling
- Amor plate floor lined with ballistic floor tile
- Armor plate walls lined with acoustical foam
- Target retrieval system
- Block bullet trap with self sealing projection screen
- HVAC/purge ventilation system
- Diesel generator

In addition, the system uses a virtual target system instead of traditional paper targets. The range uses thermal cameras to read heat signatures and feed the information back to the computer telling it where the shot or laser touched the screen.

"The Austin Police Department is thrilled to have the Mobile Force Options Simulator Range," said Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo. "This realistic training will help us improve the safety of our officers and the community they serve. More importantly, it will help the men and women of the Austin Police Department prepare for the challenges that they face on a daily basis."

The mobile range is expected to be used by APD officers in July 2010 after the completion of instructor training and scenario/curriculum development.

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